

prevailing plasma impedance via the second means, in particular, via the impedance transformer (16).

33. (New) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the starting value is 0 to 400 watts and the target value is 800 watts to 5000 watts, and wherein the increase of the starting value to the target value is carried out over a period of 0.2 sec to 5 sec, in particular, 0.5 to 2 sec.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the plasma (14) is ignited and adjusted upward in a time-pulsed manner.--

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1-17 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/01906. These claims have been rewritten as new claims 18-34 so as to conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and they do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the specification and abstract conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and incorporate any changes made in the underlying PCT application during the international stage. These amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/01906 includes an International Search Report, dated December 18, 2000. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the search for the underlying PCT Application. A copy of the Search Report is included herewith.

Applicants assert that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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